

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7883

INFO AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L IAEA VIENNA 6322

DEPT PASS IO/SCT

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: IAEA, TECH, AORG

SUBJ: PLO AND IAEA

REF: IAEA VIENNA 3106

1. MISSION HAS LEARNED FOLLOWING INFORMATION WHICH SHEDS SOME LIGHT ON BACKGROUND OF DR. SHAYEB, WHO WROTE LETTER REPORTED REFTEL INQUIRING RE PLO MEMBERSHIP IN IAEA.
 2. WHAT ATTRACTED OUR INTEREST WAS REPORT THAT SHAYEB, AT RECENT SCIENTIFIC MEETING HELD AT INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR THEORETICAL PHYSICS (ICTP) AT TRIESTE, HAD, CROSSED OUT "YEMEN" ON HIS IDENTIFICATION BADGE AND INSERTED "PLO" INSTEAD. HE REPORTEDLY WAS CLAIMING TO REPRESENT PLO AT THIS MEETING.
 3. IN LOOKING FURTHER INTO MATTER, IT TURNS OUT THAT SHAYEB HAS A PAST HISTORY OF INVOLVEMENT AT
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ICTP WHERE HE WAS AWARDED AN IAEA FELLOWSHIP FOR

SIX MONTHS IN 1975. AN ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN AN EXTENSION OF THIS FELLOWSHIP WAS DENIED, SINCE SHAYEB WAS UNABLE TO OBTAIN GOVERNMENTAL ENDORSEMENT. AN ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN A POLISH FUNDED TYPE II FELLOWSHIP FOR STUDY AT THE INSTITUTE OF NUCLEAR RESEARCH IN WARSAW WAS LIKEWISE DENIED FOR THE SAME REASON.

4. SHAYEB (FULL NAME: ABDEL GABER YAQUOB SALEH) WAS BORN IN AIN YABROUD, PALESTINE MARCH 20, 1940. HE IS MARRIED AND HAS THREE CHILDREN, AGES 3, 4 AND 5. HE CURRENTLY IS LECTURER AT FACULTY OF SCIENCE (PHYSICS DEPT.), SANA UNIVERSITY, SANA, YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC. HE OBTAINED B.SC. DEGREE IN MATHEMATICS FROM UNIVERSITY OF CAIRO, WHERE HE STUDIED DURING 1958-63. HE WAS ENROLLED AT UNIVERSITY OF LONDON, IMPERIAL COLLEGE DURING 1963-68 AND 1972-75 ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER HE ACTUALLY WAS IN LONDON DURING THOSE PERIODS. HE SPENT SOME TIME AS VISITING SCIENTIST AT ICTP IN 1964-65 AND WAS EMPLOYED AS PHYSICS TEACHER AT UNIVERSITY OF JORDAN DURING 1968-70. HE OBTAINED D.I.C. DEGREE IN 1964 AND M. PHIL. DEGREE IN 1968 FROM IMPERIAL COLLEGE. HE WENT TO U.S. IN 1970, WHERE HE ATTENDED MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY DURING 1970-72, AND UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DURING JANUARY-JUNE OF 1972. HE RETURNED TO JORDAN BUT AGAIN SPENT SOME TIME AT ICTP AS GUEST SCIENTIST 1972-73 AND UNDER AN IAEA FELLOWSHIP IN 1975.

5. WHEN HE ATTEMPTED IN 1973 TO OBTAIN AN IAEA FELLOWSHIP, THE IAEA WAS INFORMED BY UNIVERSITY OF JORDAN THAT HE HAD BEEN DISMISSED AND THEY FORESAW NO RPT NO FURTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR HIS EMPLOYMENT AT THAT UNIVERSITY. IAEA APPARENTLY AT THAT TIME ADOPTED A CAUTIOUS APPROACH, SINCE IAEA REQUIRES CERTIFICATION RE CONTINUED EMPLOYMENT IN NOMINATING COUNTRY FOLLOWING FELLOWSHIP AS CONDITION FOR GRANTING FELLOWSHIP. IAEA FINALLY RELENTED IN 1975, AFTER CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE FROM

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DIRECTOR AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF ICTP, AND ALSO FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS -- HE HAD HIS FAMILY WITH HIM IN TRIESTE AND THE STIPEND FOR GUEST SCIENTIST CLEARLY IS NOT SUFFICIENT FOR MORE THAN ONE PERSON TO LIVE ON. HE ALSO WAS FINANCIALLY IN DEBT AND ON VERGE OF BEING DESTITUTE. PRESUMABLY HE WENT TO YEMEN FOLLOWING HIS FELLOWSHIP AT ICTP IN MID-1975. HE OBTAINED HIS PH.D. FROM IMPERIAL COLLEGE DURING

HIS STAY AT ICTP.

6. IN JANUARY 1976, SHAYEB APPLIED AGAIN FOR AN IAEA FELLOWSHIP, BUT IAEA TURNED IT DOWN ON GROUNDS THAT YEMEN IS NOT RPT NOT IAEA MEMBER STATE. (NOTE THAT IT WAS AFTER THIS EPISODE THAT SHAYEB WROTE TO IAEA INQUIRING RE IAEA MEMBERSHIP FOR PLO).

7. COMMENT: ONE CAN SPECULATE ON WHETHER OR NOT SHAYEB'S POSSIBLE PIQUE WITH IAEA OVER PAST DENIALS OF FELLOWSHIPS MIGHT HAVE LED HIM TO SEEK WAYS OF REDRESSING HIS ALLEGED GRIEVANCE THROUGH A POLITICAL APPROACH ON BEHALF PLO. FACT THAT SHAYEB HIMSELF WROTE THE LETTER MENTIONED REFTEL, ALTHOUGH IT WAS PRUPORTEDLY ENDORSED BY PLO POLITICAL DEPT. CHIEF QADUMI, COULD MEAN THAT HE IS ACTING LARGELY ON HIS OWN, OR WITH MINIMAL GUIDANCE. EXTENT TO WHICH SHAYEB'S APPROACH WAS COORDINATED WITH PLO MOVE TO GAIN OBSERVER STATUS AT IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE IS UNCERTAIN. IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT THERE IS LESS COORDINATION THAN ONE WOULD ASSUME. NEVERTHELESS, WE THINK IT IS MORE THAN LIKELY THAT SHAYEB WILL PLAY A PROMINENT ROLE IN WHATEVER PLO OBSERVER REPRESENTATION THERE MIGHT BE AT IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE IF GC DECIDES TO OFFER PLO OBSERVER STATUS. END COMMENT.

8. COPIES OF SHAYEB'S IAEA FELLOWSHIP FORMS POUCHED CAVANAUGH, IO/SCT.STONE

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